

State, Local and Territories Perspective on Surveillance and Epidemiology of Long COVID

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Rachel Herlihy, MD, MPH
Colorado State Epidemiologist



Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Current Efforts for Establishing an Understanding of Long COVID



- What state, local, and territorial agency efforts are currently underway or have been conducted previously to better understand or define Long COVID?
- What are the most important epidemiological and surveillance considerations in establishing Long COVID definitions?
- What are some of the lessons learned from past STLT efforts to establish definitions for diseases that could help inform the development of a Long COVID definition?

Efforts underway/previously conducted



- Cross sectional surveys
- Model-based estimation of burden
- Sentinel surveillance
- Syndromic surveillance
- Analysis of claims and other administrative clinical data

Goals- to understand burden, spectrum of illness, risk/protective factors, trends, identify opportunities for interventions.

Important considerations for Long COVID surveillance definitions



Public health surveillance definitions can be built from clinical or research definitions or instruments but will differ by necessity.

- Need for simplicity
- Resource limitations
- Imperfect balance of sensitivity and positive predictive value
- Standardized approach to allow comparison between jurisdictions
- Must include populations experiencing disparities
- Definition may vary by method

Case-based/reportable conditions surveillance is not an effective approach for complex conditions like Long COVID.

- Absence of laboratory result trigger, reliance on clinician reporting
- Complex definition
- Resource limitations
- More viable alternatives:
 - Population-based sentinel systems (i.e. Emerging Infections Program)
 - Population-based surveys (i.e. BRFSS, NHIS)
 - Optimize use of secondary data sources such as claims or syndrome data, may inform modeling

Issues and Barriers



- What have been the issues and barriers that you have faced within your agency related to efforts to define Long COVID?
- Have there been efforts to address these issues?

- Complexity
- Absence of standardized definitions
- Infectious disease and chronic disease cross-collaboration
- Resource limitations

Efforts and Next Steps



- CSTE working group, upcoming report.
- Resources to continue STLT engagement and collaboration to build surveillance definitions from NASEM's efforts here.
- Need for flexible use of current federal funding and new funding to support STLT implementation of surveillance strategies.



CSTE National Office

2635 Century Parkway NE, Suite 700
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

T 770.458.3811

F 770.458.8516

[email]@cste.org